

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

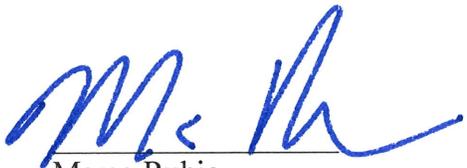
Thank you for your continued leadership on the Federal Commission on School Safety. We applaud the work and coordination between Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and Justice to tackle this incredibly important issue and for bringing in expert witnesses to help you craft much needed recommendations.

There is an immense need to make a central point of information available to states and local education agencies on ways to improve school safety. Our nation's educators are trained to teach and are not always equipped to identify weaknesses in school safety. They are also not the experts on what are the best, most cost effective ways to harden schools. However, the federal government has the capability to compile best practices and resources for educators that would like assistance on how to improve school safety without detracting from school elements that are conducive to learning. This is why we must explore the feasibility of creating a central clearing house or repository to make sure all our efforts are being coordinated.

School safety is a top priority for this country. As a result, we are exposing the drastic inefficiencies of a patchwork of federal agencies performing important, but separate work in pursuing the same goal. Each agency is working independently and the lack of coordination and overall direction is hindering progress necessary to keep our children safe and prevent these tragedies from happening in the future. A central authority is needed to ensure tight coordination and collaboration of effort among all federal agencies that are working on different aspects of school safety in order to eliminate duplication, redundancy, and waste of valuable resources.

We urge you to include, as a recommendation in your final report, that a central clearing house be created and a central authority be identified. School safety deserves the considerable resources of the federal government to work in unison to keep America's children safe at school. Schools, districts, and states that are working to keep schools safe need to see a united effort by the federal government to support them.

We look forward to working with you on this issue and ensuring that our efforts are being properly focused on keeping our children, teachers and families across this nation safe.



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senator



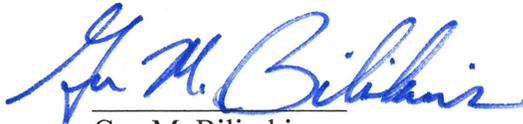
Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



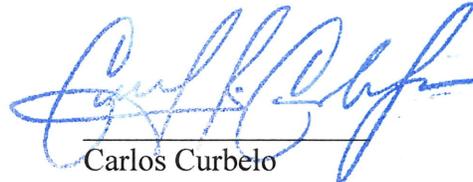
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress



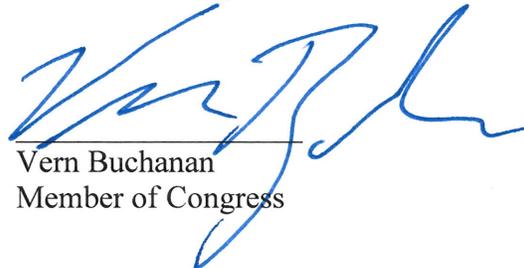
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



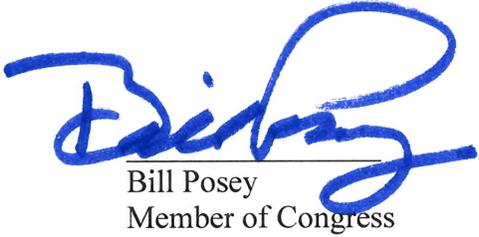
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress

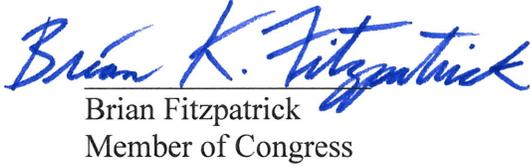


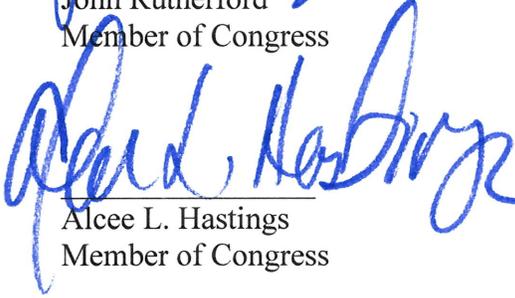
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

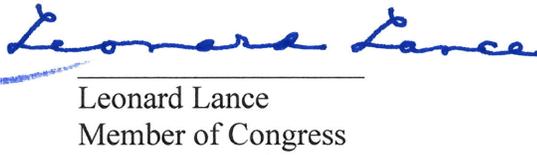
  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

  
John Rutherford  
Member of Congress

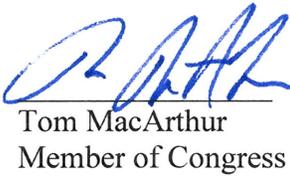
  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

  
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

  
Rod Blum  
Member of Congress

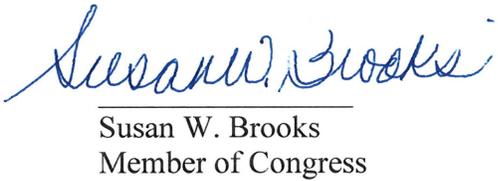
  
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

  
Tom MacArthur  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

  
Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Knight  
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Susan W. Brooks  
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
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Thomas J. Rooney  
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Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus  
Member of Congress

Cc:

The Honorable Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States  
The Honorable Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security